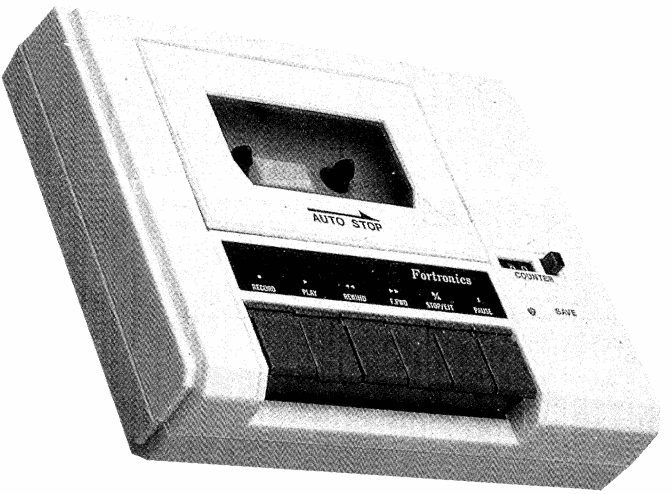
COMPUTER CASSETTE UNIT

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



MODEL NO.: PC-7018

FORTRONICS

SYMBOL OF QUALITY & RELIABILITY

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR

CASSETTE DATA UNIT

Model PC-7018 cassette unit was designed for use on Commodore VIC 20 or VIC 64 computers.

This cassette unit is a device for storing and/or recalling computer programs on ordinary cassette tapes. It can be used for saving programs you have written and want to recall for later use. It can also be used to read pre-recorded programs that you have purchased.

CASSETTE OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

FOR YOUR COMPUTER

Important information about your cassette unit

Your cassette unit is supplied with a cord attached. This cord connects the cassette unit to the VIC computer. Power is supplied from the computer to the cassette unit through this cord. The computer and cassette communicate through the cord.

TURN OFF THE COMPUTER BEFORE CONNECTING THE CASSETTE UNIT TO IT.

Plug the attached cord in to a connector at the back of the VIC computer. The plug will only fit on the specific connector one way. Please DO NOT FORCE IT TO PREVENT DAMAGE.

It is important to keep the cassette unit at least 2 feet away from the TV as radio emissions from the TV can interfere with the correct operation of the cassette unit.

PRELIMINARY CHECKOUT

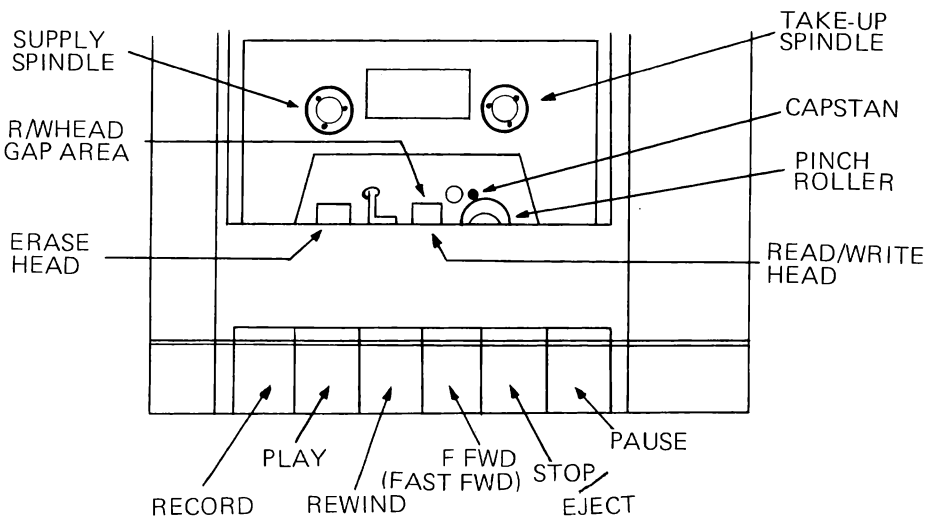
Before using your cassette drive unit to recall or store programs, you should complete the preliminary checks – which are described below:

1. Turn off the computer and connect the cassette unit through the cord to the computer.

2. Ensure that the cassette deck motor is off by checking that all of the function keys are up. If any are not, press the STOP button.

3. Turn the computer on.

Fig. 1



4. Press the PLAY button on the cassette unit Look to see that, as the button is engaged, the READ/WRITE heads move towards the spindles and the capstan comes into contact with the pinch roller (see Fig. 1). The take-up spindle should be moving smoothly in an anti-clockwise direction.

5. Now press the STOP button. The heads should move back and the spindle stop.

6. Press the REWIND button. The tape heads should remain in the inactive position and the supply spindle should move rapidly clockwise.

7. Press STOP again and then F. FWD. The tape heads should still remain in the inactive position and the take-up spindle should move rapidly anti-clockwise.

8. Press STOP once more and then GENTLY attempt to press REC. You should feel strong mechanical resistance.

9. If all has worked, your cassette has been properly checked and is ready go to work.

CARE OF TAPES

Be careful to rewind all tapes to the beginning after use as this protects the recording from abrasion and contamination. Do not store or place any tapes near strong magnetic fields such as may occur near loudspeakers. or large motors.

CASSETTE MAINTENANCE

The cassette uses magnetic heads to record and retrieve the information on the cassette tapes. These heads tend to accumulate residue and diret from the tape as the tape moves accross them. After a period of time the accumulation lifts the tape slightly away from the heads drastically degrading the signal from the head.

Therefore, the following procedure should be used after every 10 to 20 hours of tape playing time to ensure that your cassette continues to read and write reliably.

CLEANING AND DEMAGNETIZING YOUR CASSETTE HEADS

You'll need the following tools and materials:

Tape head cleaner. Alcohol may be used in emergency, but is not recommended for long term use.

NOTE: Do not use trichloroethane or any other plastic or rubber solvent.

Cotton swabs.

Tape head demagnetizer. Unit must have protective plastic or rubber covering on the piece that comes into contact with the tape heads so as not to scratch delicate head gap.

FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE

1. Turn the computer off.

2. Press EJECT to open cover, then press PLAY to expose heads.

3. Put tape head cleaner on one side of a cotton swab. Gently wipe the surfaces of RECORD/PLAY and erase head (see Fig. 1).
   Scrub gently. (If there is any build-up of tape oxide particles on or around the head gap of the RECORD/PLAY head, it is sufficient reason for unreliable performance.)
   Also clean pinch roller and other tape bearing surfaces if tape head cleaner is suitable for this purpose (check label).

4. Plug in demagnetizer, and activate it while it is at least one foot away from cassette heads.

5. Slowly move demagnetizer up to RECORD/PLAY head and around on head surface. Rate of motion should be approximately one inch per second during this time.

6. Slowly move demagnetizer to erase head and then to all other ferrous metal surfaces which come into proximity with the tape.

7. Now slowly move demagnetizer away from heads. Do not deactivate field until demagnetizer is at least two feel away from heads.

The tape head cleaning and demagnetizing procedure is now complete. Inspect RECORD/PLAY, surface for wear. If the tape has worn a groove on head surface

more than a couple of tape thicknesses deep, program reading performance may be poor. If so, then replacement of tape head is indicated. (Normally few thousand hours of tape running time have been completed before replacement is required.)

CASSETTE DECK PROBLEMS

If you are experiencing problems with your cassette deck either mechanically or electronically, return it to the dealer from whom it was purchased. If the cassette deck is faulty and in warranty he will replace it for you.

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